



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Office of Highway Safety

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Highway fatalities in Kentucky decline in 2009

Preliminary figures indicate 44 fewer people killed as Kentucky moves Toward Zero Deaths

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 12, 2010) – Highway fatalities in Kentucky declined in 2009 for a fifth consecutive year. Kentucky Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) preliminary figures indicate 782 people lost their lives on Kentucky roadways, down from 826 in 2008.

Acting Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock, who is Gov. Steve Beshear's designated representative for highway safety, said saving lives and reducing serious injuries is a top priority of the administration.

"We are encouraged by the reduction in fatalities, but firmly believe that one fatality is too many," said Hancock. "The Governor's Executive Committee on Highway Safety is committed to providing direction on traffic safety issues as we move *Toward Zero Deaths* on Kentucky's roadways."

The Executive Committee, which has its first meeting of the new year today, comprises representatives of 18 highway safety agencies and organizations such as KOHS, the Transportation Cabinet, Kentucky State Police, local law enforcement and emergency services. Its goal is to work cooperatively to update and implement Kentucky's Strategic Highway Safety Plan – *Toward Zero Deaths*.

Chuck Geveden, KOHS executive director, said credit for the reduction is due not only to organizational efforts, but to individual motorists as well.

"Forty-four fewer people were killed last year compared with 2008 because more drivers took responsibility for their driving habits," said Geveden. "In order for Kentucky to move *Toward Zero Deaths*, everyone must commit to obeying all traffic safety laws when getting behind the wheel."

The figures are preliminary because data is still being collected. A final report is expected by March. Highway fatalities have declined each year since 2005, when the toll was 985.

Information: <http://highwaysafety.ky.gov/>.

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Eds. and broadcasters: In the attached MP3 file, Office of Highway Safety Executive Director Chuck Geveden discusses Kentucky's approach to reducing highway fatalities.